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"Adoption Day" on it's Way



11/24/03- There are more than 4,000 children here in Michigan that are ready to be adopted, and to help, the State Supreme Court has declared this coming Tuesday as Michigan Adoption Day. Courts across the state will work to finalize adoptions for about 200 families.

The theme of Adoption Day is to show that adoptive families are real families too. Normally, adoption proceedings are closed to the public, but on Tuesday, Ingham and Livingston County courts are opening their doors to show what goes on during an adoption.

Since Leighla was three weeks old, she's been part of the Hazlett's life. When her adoption is finalized Tuesday, it will ensure Leighla will be a part of their family forever. Leighla is the second child the Hazletts will adopt. Three years ago, they decided to adopt Rebecca, who is now six.

Brenda Hazlett, mom: "We just looked at each other and said, yah, it's been a blessing every day."

And though shy, Rebecca is excited that Leighla will soon be her younger sister. They opened their home to foster children eight years ago, and help they did. 44 children have become part of the Hazlett's life, and according to them, they'll stay that way forever. They continue to provide comfort for children in need. In fact, they have two teenage kids living with them now, but as far as another adoption goes, though it may be on hold, it's not totally out of the question.

Gary Hazlett, dad: "I won't say no, but I won't say yes either."

Both the Hazletts are happy rooms will be open on Tuesday, so interested families can see what adoption proceedings are all about. They say though the majority of foster children return to their biological parents, there are still many out there ready for adoption, and even more who just need a place to stay.



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